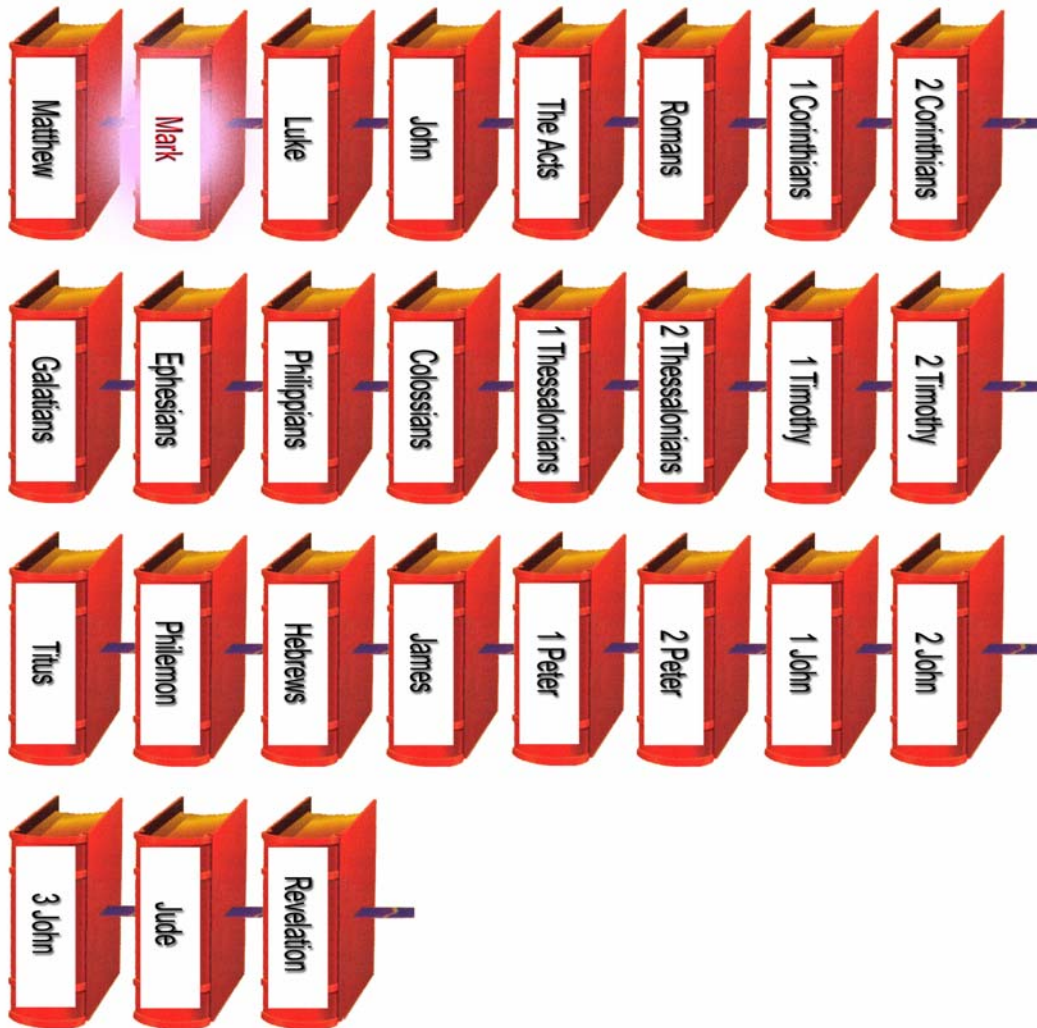


# New Testament Books



## Chapter 33

## Mark 1-4

### The Story so Far

Jesus' birth was very unique because He had no human father and prophets predicted His birth 700 years before it actually happened. Jesus is the long promised King from David and Abraham's families, and His name "Jesus" identifies Him as the promised Rescuer-Ruler. Jesus overcame Satan in the desert and so proved Himself as the final obedient Son who could establish God's Kingdom. Where Adam and Israel failed Jesus does not fail, but proves Himself as the perfect Son. His message was simple: "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near".

### Objectives

- To understand Jesus' message about the Kingdom of God
- To see God's Kingdom in action through Jesus' authority

### Connections

- In the Old Testament God promised His Kingdom, in the New Testament God establishes His Kingdom through Jesus

### Summary

**Jesus is re-establishing God's rule over Satan's Kingdom, over sickness, over sin and over creation. Jesus is God's King who will establish God's Kingdom – God will rule the world again through His Son Jesus.**

# The Kingdom is Near!

## God's Kingdom (Mark 1:14-15)

In the beginning, God established a Kingdom – God's people, living in God's place, under God's rule and blessing. God's Kingdom is centred on His reign over His people and His creation. In the Garden of Eden God ruled with no other competitors. Then Satan came and challenged God's rule. For a time God's rule over His people was ruined. God promised His Kingdom to Abraham, and told Israel He would rule and bless the world through them. But we know, like Adam, they failed.

The good news that Jesus announces to people is that God's reign is coming again. God is going to rule over His people and creation again like He did in the Garden of Eden, and He will do it through King Jesus.

### Jesus is saying two things:

1. The Kingdom is here because the King is here - all the Old Testament predictions about the coming Kingdom of God are fulfilled at this time because Jesus is God's appointed King.
2. Everyone is to repent and believe this message – this is the appropriate response to this good news.

## God's Kingdom in action

Jesus announces that God's Kingdom is here. Now He demonstrates this fact through powerful acts. In the Bible these are called "miracles". The first few stories in Mark chapters 1-4 show us the reign of God through Jesus the King. We see Jesus' authority over the kingdom of evil spirits, over sickness, over sin, and over nature.

## Authority over evil spirits (Mark 1:21-28)

The kingdom of darkness is reigning when Jesus comes to earth. Some people in Israel have become possessed by demons (evil spirits). These evil spirits were angels in heaven who rebelled with the devil against God. They were thrown out of heaven to the earth with Satan. But when Jesus is teaching in the synagogue (like a church building) He removes the evil spirit from the person. Jesus

teaches with unique authority and evil spirits obey Him. He is defeating the rule of Satan and his evil kingdom.

### **Authority over sickness (Mark 1:29-34)**

Where did sickness come from? In the beginning of the world there was no sickness. It came into the world whenever human beings challenged God's rule and rebelled against His words. Sickness is a result of Satan's kingdom. Jesus heals this lady's fever and therefore rules over sickness. He also heals many other people as well.

### **Authority to clean the unclean (Mark 1:40-45)**

In order for us to understand the books of the New Testament, we need to understand the Old Testament. In the book of Leviticus chapters 13-14 God gave rules about skin disease e.g. leprosy. People with skin problems were examined by the priest and pronounced "unclean". They had to live outside the camp for a certain time and could only come back in when they were clean. On returning to the camp they needed to offer various sacrifices through the priest.

In this story a leper (man with the skin disease called "leprosy") comes to Jesus and asks Him to make him clean. By the law of the Old Testament Jesus becomes unclean by touching, and so becomes like a substitute. Jesus makes this man clean by becoming unclean. The judgement of the law is removed from this man and received by Jesus.

### **Authority to forgive (Mark 2:1-12)**

In this story Jesus shows Himself to be God in two ways:

1. He knows the thoughts of the religious teachers – v8
2. Jesus performs a miracle to show that He has authority to forgive sins

The easier thing to **say** is that which is most difficult to prove. The harder thing to **say** is that which is easy to prove. By demonstrating His power to physically heal this man, Jesus proves His authority to also forgive his sins.

### **Authority over nature (Mark 4:35-41)**

There is only one person in the Bible that can control creation by speaking, and that's God. Yet Jesus calms a storm and proves His authority over nature. Jesus is Lord over all creation.

## **The Kingdom is near**

Jesus announced that the Kingdom was near – God’s rule in the world. He has demonstrated that this is true through His powerful acts, proving to us that He is the King who has authority to teach, to defeat demons, to heal sickness, to cleanse lepers, to forgive sin, and to calm natural disorder. Jesus wants to give us one clear simple message – “The Kingdom is near!”

**Jesus is re-establishing God’s rule over Satan’s Kingdom, over sickness, over sin and over creation. Jesus is God’s King who will establish God’s Kingdom – God will rule the world again through His Son Jesus.**



## Think it through & discuss

1. What is the content of Jesus' message?
2. What does Jesus say our response should be?
3. What evidence is there that God's Kingdom was established through Jesus?
4. Name one miracle that stood out for you, and explain why.